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December 6, 2005

Department of Child Services Region 16
Regional Services Council Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2005, 6:00 P.M.
Log Ends, Petersburg, IN

Present for the meeting were Virginia Combs, Lark Buckman, Susan Blackburn, Judge Jeffrey Biesterveld, Judge James Redwine, Shirley Starks, Larry Marchino, Judge W. Timothy Crowley, Judge David Keller, Judy Harper, Chris Hoehn, Valerie Nicholas and Steve Cunningham.

Mrs. Combs, Region 16 Regional Manager, presided.

Mrs. Combs introduced Family Case Manager Supervisor, Shirley Starks from Vanderburgh County as the Supervisor Representative for the Council. Family Case Manager, Julie Weeks, who was unable to attend from Pike County will be the Family Case Manager Representative.

A discussion was held regarding meeting times. Mrs. Combs reported that Judge Brent Niemeier, Vanderburgh County, will not be able to attend on Tuesdays because of a pre-existing commitment.

The consensus is that evenings are best. The December meeting will be held in Mount Vernon on the 13th, with exact location announced later. Mrs. Combs will discuss alternative dates with Judge Niemeier.

A handout of gaps in services in the region was discussed. This information was gained from Department of Child Services Staff at the September 16th meetings held state wide. It is an attempt to find services for unreached populations. Mrs. Combs asked that council members jot down areas in which they feel there is a lack, and be prepared for discussion at the next meeting. These "gaps" will then be presented to Dodson and Shively, the region's IV-B services coordinator. Title IV-B funding will become more flexible and there will be a search for more potential providers.

A chart titled "Guide to IV-B Parts I and II and CICFP Chafee Independent Living" was discussed with a handout of authorized programs and IV-B funding for each county.



Protecting our children, families and future

After dinner Mrs. Combs discussed the 2006 - 2008 Child Welfare Services Plan following the outline of a letter dated November 14, 2005 from DCS Director James W. Payne and M.B. Lippold, Deputy Director of Programs and Services. The letter discussed the timetable and other items for the Request for Funding Proposal (RFP) for 2006 – 2008. Services will now line up with the state calendar year. The next contract will be for one and one half years. The RFP will be posted on the State Website on November 15, 2005. Mrs. Combs went through the 15 point “Highlights” of the Child Welfare Services Plan. DCS Directors are assigned sub-committee members will score the proposals. The effective date of the plan is July 1, 2006. The question was asked what the role of the service council would be in this process. Mrs. Combs explained that the DCS Directors will review the proposals and make recommendations to the voting members of the Regional Services Council. As of June 30, 2006 the Child Welfare Executive Committees will no longer exist.

Potential providers must be able to offer their services to the entire region if counties have no other providers for their particular services. Discussion was held regarding existing service providers that currently do not do so.

Mrs. Combs asked the group if it would be helpful to have the IV-B Coordinator present. Everyone agreed that would be beneficial. She will try to get Anita Osborn or Jim Shively to attend our December meeting.

The minutes of the October 11, 2005 meeting were approved with one addition. It was decided at the October 11th meeting to rotate voting members on an annual basis. A motion was made by Judy Harper and seconded by Susan Blackburn to approve with the above addition. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on December 13th in Posey County. Details will follow.

VC/cjc